



Command Philosophy
CDR A. R. Gentilella, USCG

USCGC DILIGENCE (WMEC 616)
People - Cutter - Mission



It is my honor and privilege to serve as Commanding Officer. This is a fine ship, beautiful in appearance, with many moving parts and with myriad, challenging, and dangerous missions assigned to it. But without each and every one of you giving your specialty expertise and hard work to the ship and each other, the ship is merely a hollow piece of steel sitting alongside the pier. There are approximately 80 members of the DILIGENCE team, and, therefore, each one of us is 1/80th of the required manpower, expertise, heart and soul required to keep this ship alive and able to perform well in the most challenging operations and sea conditions. **There are no unimportant jobs or unimportant people on our team.**

- My goal for this command is simply to maintain an even balance of all our needs and requirements. My first priority is meeting the needs of you and your families. The bottom line is that if you do not have security and peace of mind at home, then you will not be able to give 100 percent to your job. If you have a concern or need, let someone know, such as your supervisor, department head, the Command Chief, the XO, or I. Communicating your needs is the key... then we can act on helping you take care of them. While I cherish your portion of the team effort in running this ship, no one is indispensable, and I understand that personal life events may prevent some of you from being here all of the time.

- My second priority is taking care of the ship's maintenance and conducting training. I will dedicate enough time for you to properly maintain the ship's machinery, smallboats, electronics, coatings, and gear. This will keep us from breaking down and earn us the reputation as a reliable cutter. I will also place an emphasis and dedicate time for you to maintain the ship in a clean and polished condition. This will keep us very proud of our unit and it will portray our pride and professionalism to fellow Coast Guard units, the other Armed Services, and the general public. It is well known and proven that when stressed and challenged, people will react by what they learned in training and drills. Therefore, before conducting our required missions, and in between missions, we will be vigilant in practicing for situations that will inevitably come about, whether that is fire, flooding, search and rescue, law enforcement, or even defense operations.

- My third priority is conducting our assigned Coast Guard missions, which will be primarily Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Homeland Security operations. The bottom line on this priority is that if we take care of each other, then train well and take care of the ship, our mission will come easier when we are challenged the most. In all that we do, we will follow the highest standards of safety – **Safety comes first.**

- Finally, I want to emphasize that you will be expected to act in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Always remember that: **We are the Coast Guard in Wilmington, NC and wherever we patrol and visit.** Please keep this a high priority and behave accordingly. As public servants, it will be our habit to assist one another, other Coast Guard units, and the civilian mariner whenever we can.

- I want you to remember two quotes that I have lived by throughout my career. They are **“Excellence is never an accident,”** and **“Winning is hard work.”** Through compassion, teamwork, professionalism and good, old-fashioned hard work, we will create our own good luck, and we will also have plenty of fun in both work and play. I look forward to serving with all of you.

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